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OCCURRENCE OF *ERNOBIUS OPICUS* FALL  
IN EASTERN UNITED STATES  
(COLEOPTERA: ANOBIIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

Collection of first known males and new distribution records are presented for *Ernobius opicus* Fall.

*Ernobius opicus* was described by H. C. Fall in 1905 from 2 females collected in Michigan and Massachusetts by Hubbard and Schwarz. In 1962, Dr. R. E. White stated that *E. opicus* was very rare in collections, and the male was unknown. I have carefully screened light trap collections for 14 years (1960-1974) and found 6 specimens including 3 males. Collection data are: MARYLAND, Anne-Arundel County, Baltimore-Washington International Airport, 11-VII-67 and 25-VII-67 (2); Baltimore County, 23-VI-66, VI-68, and 18-V-68 (3). PENNSYLVANIA, Cowans Gap, 30-VI-68 (1).

In studying external characteristics I found that the only reliable difference for separation of the sexes is in the structure of the antennae. In the

male the apical antennal segment is obviously longer than either of the 2 preceding segments (Fig. 1a). In the female the apical segment is approximately equal to the 2 preceding segments (Fig. 1b).

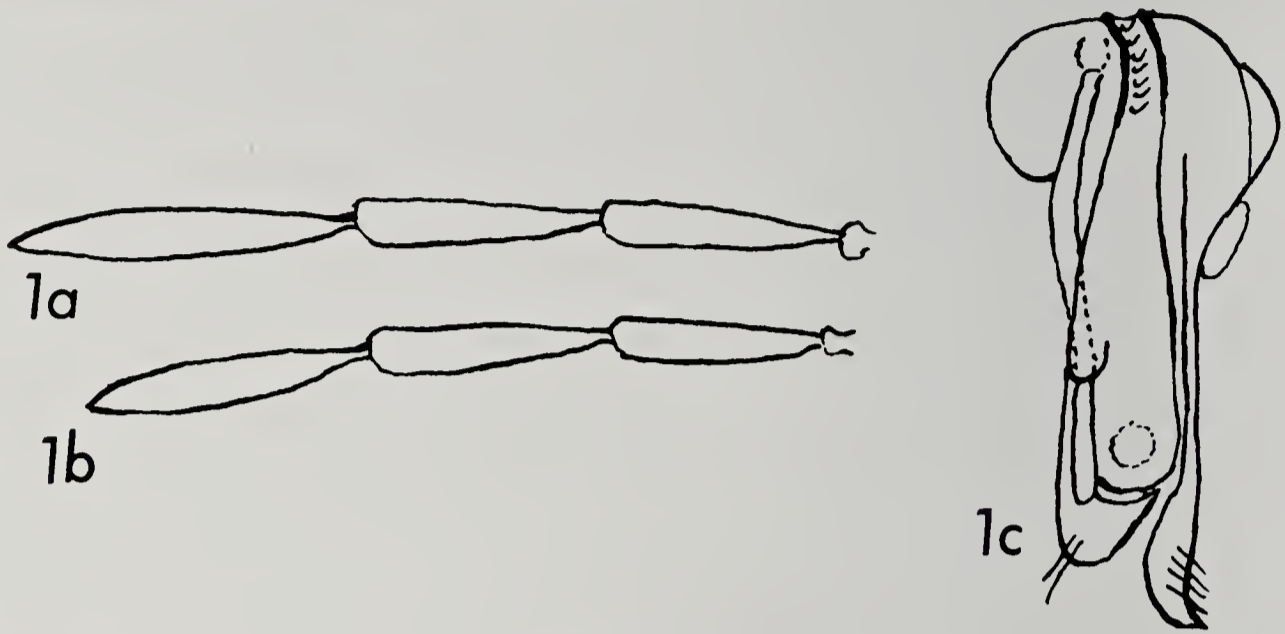


Fig. 1: a) apical segments of male antenna; b) apical segments of female antenna; c) male genitalia.

Host records for most species of *Ernobius* are lacking, but dead coniferous bark and cones are likely the preferred food materials, judging from the few existing records. The Maryland specimens were collected in areas where pine is the dominant tree.

Future research may eventually provide an explanation for the apparent scarcity of *E. opicus*, but, for now, it can only be said that it is rare for reasons that remain a mystery.

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